

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers  
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

CEMVN-OD-T

19 January 2005

NAVIGATION BULLETIN NO. 05-11

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER - OLD RIVER**  
**CONTROL STRUCTURES PROJECT**

Mariners are advised that there are strong currents in addition to turbulent water around the entrances to the inflow channels of the federally owned Old River Auxiliary (mile 311.0 AHP) and Low Sill (mile 314.5 AHP) Control Structures and the privately owned Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant (mile 316.5 AHP). During normal operation of these structures, a drawdown occurs at the entrances to the inflow channels. The drawdown becomes severe when the structures operate during high river stages. The inflow channel of each of the structures is marked with a flashing amber light that is located on the south bank of the entrance.

The inflow channels of these structures are NOT navigable channels and are restricted from recreational purposes due to the hazardous conditions. When in the vicinity of these structures, tows and other vessels should navigate between the red nun buoys and green can buoys that mark the navigation channel of the river. This is advised in order to avoid effects of crosscurrents caused by the drawdown.

Vessels in distress that are drawn in the inflow channel of any of the structures or within the restricted mooring zone (see 33 CFR Ch.1, part 162.80, 01 July 99 Edition) in the Mississippi River (between mile 311.0 and 340.0 AHP) should contact any of the following by marine radio or any other emergency means. The structures that are staffed 24 hours each day can be reached as follows:

- Old River Complex – VHF Channel 16 (Radio) / (225) 492-2159 or (225) 492-2690 (Phone)
- Sidney Murray Hydroelectric Plant – VHF Channel 16 (Radio) / (225) 492-2153 (Phone)
- Old River Lock – VHF Channel 14 (Radio) / (225) 492-3333 (Phone).

The point of contact with the New Orleans District is Cary McNamara at (225) 634-2955 (Home Phone) or (225) 721-1136 (Cell) and Russell Beauvais at (225) 694-3301 (Home) or (225) 202-3851 (Cell).

The following are informational resources that are either currently available or will be available that display in chart format the location of the hazardous conditions at the Old River Control Structures and the Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant:

#### WILL BE AVAILABLE

- Map Chart Nos. 112, 113 and 113A (internet edition) of the 1998 Mississippi River Navigation Charts will be revised this year to clearly depict the inflow channels of the above structures; the WEB address is <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/reegis/navbook/main2.htm>. The hard copy of the Mississippi River Navigation Charts that will show the revision to the hazardous areas will be issued in the near future.

#### CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

- CD-ROMs of the updated Map Chart Nos. 112, 113 and 113A of the 1998 Mississippi River Navigation Charts.
- Map No. 1 of the 1999 Atchafalaya River Chart Books (hard copy) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) publication CD-ROMs.
- Map No. 1 (internet addition) of the 1999 Atchafalaya River Navigation Charts; the WEB address is [http://155.76.128.194/corps/atchafalaya/navbook\\_ras.htm](http://155.76.128.194/corps/atchafalaya/navbook_ras.htm).

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